

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE
Office of the Executive Director

June 17, 2005

Dear Task Force Member:

The CSOP Advisory Team (Team) recommends to the Task Force that the Corps consider additional feedback from the Team before it proceeds with full scale development of the fifth and final CSOP alternative. This recommendation is supported by all of the stakeholder groups represented on the Team. This approach would improve the quality of the feedback and increase the chances for achieving consensus stakeholder recommendations. The additional feedback would be provided at the next Team meeting on July 20 and 21.

The Team recognizes the importance of the expeditious implementation of the Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 Projects to the Task Force and to the entire restoration effort. In order to assist the Task Force in providing quality recommendations to the Corps during key phases in the CSOP process, it is important that the Team have sufficient time to analyze and evaluate how well the alternative modeling results meet the Team's consensus Performance Expectations. This is especially important now that the Corps is about to begin work on the fifth and final alternative.

It is vital that any recommendation the Team makes to the Task Force be based on the best technical and scientific information available; the result of meaningful analysis of the alternatives.

In order to accomplish this, a pause in the current schedule is needed to address specific questions concerning the alternatives to date and to provide feedback at the July 20 and 21 meeting. This time would be used to analyze critical aspects of the alternatives developed to date and to prepare more detailed feedback. This opportunity would also increase the likelihood that the final alternative will satisfy the Team's performance expectations.

To the best of our knowledge this pause will not cause any delay in the actual implementation of the operational schedule for these two critical projects. It will, however, greatly increase the probability that this team will provide consensus recommendations to the Task Force, and assist the development of a successful operational plan.

Thank you for considering our efforts to highlight this important issue. We look forward to your feedback and continuing to serve as an advisory body to the Task Force for the CSOP.

Sincerely,



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